

William Berkeley Lewis to Andrew Jackson, January 15, 1845, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

class=MsoNormal>MAJOR WILLIAM B. LEWIS TO JACKSON.

Washington, January 15, 1845.

My dear Genl, I have this moment been informed that great efforts are making here, by the friends of Mr. Buchanan, to have him placed in the State Dept. under the new Administration. To accomplish this Col. Polks brother (who left this morning for Nashville) has been beset night and day , I understand. What impression has been made upon his mind, or what influence he may have with the President elect, I know not, but I do think it would be an unfortunate appointment, and contrary to your views in relation to the construction of the new Cabinet. No man is more intent upon making himself President than Mr. Buchanan; and his appointment would of course give dissatisfaction to the friends of all the other aspirants. It would be particularly obnoxious to the friends of the Vice President, as well as the Parties who hate him intensely. I think with you, most decidedly , that Col. Polk, in organizing his cabinet, should steer clear of presidential aspirants. They will not only involve him in much trouble, but will be looked to as the ruling stars of his Administration by their followers and expectants , as was the case with Mr. Monroe during the last 4 years of his Administration. He was almost entirely overlooked, as you well know, and considered of no sort of importance in consequence of having three presidential candidates in his cabinet! I hope Col. Polk will not allow himself to be made a cipher of in the same way! No, no, keep them all out of the Cabinet, say I. 0388 364 Cass and Wright, I am sure, have no wish to be in the cabinet. The former will undoubtedly be sent to the Senate, where he can do Col. Polk as good service as if he were in his Cabinet. And the latter has no wish to abandon his present position. I fear, our friend Judge Catron is also

Library of Congress

pressing Mr. Buchanan upon Col. Polk for the State Dept. I do not believe he could get a more efficient and useful man to fill that Dept. than Stevenson, who is connected with no cliques , nor is he an aspirant for any thing.